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process in a colloidal matrix, rather than explained by appeal to complex regulation processes. While this work deals in the main with analogies in morphological features, the writer emphasizes the fact that dynamic activities in the non-living often show rhythmic action determined by internal characters of the system rather than change of the environment. He cites, along with several other examples, the periodic elimination of oxygen when a clean mercury surface is covered with a neutral or slightly alkaline solution of hydrogen peroxide. In his later work the writer will undoubtedly turn more to the dynamic.

Rhythm in plant activity is held by many to be generally related to environmental rhythm. Others feel that rhythm is a necessity of the very nature of protoplasmic activity; activity must be followed by rest. An examination of the facts that KÜSTER offers shows the possibility of rhythms in the organism independent of environmental rhythm, and as well independent of the inscrutable features of protoplasm. In short, internally determined rhythms may be matters of relatively simple chemical and physical laws.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

#### Makers of British botany

Under this title, Professor OLIVER has edited a most interesting book.<sup>2</sup> The book grew out of a series of ten lectures delivered by various botanists at the University College of London in 1911. These lectures have been supplemented by six other chapters, so that the work might be more fully representative.

The botanists included and those who prepared the sketches are as follows: ROBERT MORISON (1620–1683) and JOHN RAY (1627–1705), by S. H. VINES; NEHEMIAH GREW (1641–1712), by Mrs. ARBER; STEPHEN HALES (1677–1761), by FRANCIS DARWIN; JOHN HILL (1716–1775), by T. G. HILL; ROBERT BROWN (1773–1858), by J. B. FARMER; Sir WILLIAM HOOKER (1785–1865), and Sir J. D. HOOKER (1817–1911), by F. O. BOWER; J. S. HENSLOW (1796–1861), by GEORGE HENSLOW; JOHN LINDLEY (1799–1865), by FREDERICK KEEBLE; WILLIAM GRIFFITH (1810–1845), by W. H. LANG; ARTHUR HENFREY (1819–1859), by F. W. OLIVER; WILLIAM HENRY HARVEY (1811–1866), by W. LLOYD PRAEGER; MILES BERKELY (1803–1889), by GEORGE MASSEE; Sir JOSEPH GILBERT (1817–1901), by W. B. BOTTOMLEY; W. C. WILLIAMSON (1816–1895), by D. H. SCOTT; HARRY MARSHALL WARD (1854–1905), by W. THISELTON-DYER; The Edinburgh professors (1670–1887), by I. BAYLEY BALFOUR.

It is impossible to review such a book in a brief space, but botanists will be glad to know where biographies of these botanists may be obtained. Each one stood for some phase of botany and contributed his share to its history.

—J. M. C.

<sup>2</sup> OLIVER, F. W., *Makers of British botany*, a collection of biographies by living botanists. 8vo. pp. 332. *pls. 26*. Cambridge: University Press. 1912. 9s.